

IN THE CLAIMS;

1. Cancel Original Claims 1-21;

1. (cancelled) In a squirt gun of the type comprising a housing having a hollow interior portion, a filling passageway between the housing's hollow interior portion and the housing's exterior, and a squirting passageway between the housing's hollow interior portion and a nozzle at the housing's exterior, and having an actuatable trigger adapted in and biased towards a first position in which communication through the squirting passageway from the housing's hollow interior portion to the nozzle is denied, and movable to a second position in which communication between the housing's hollow interior portion to the nozzle is enabled, the improvement whereby the hollow interior portion comprises a sealed and rigid pressure vessel with one or more openings communicating with the passageways, said vessel comprising therein a compressible gas-filled and sealed bladder, and whereby the gun is adapted to receive water at a positive pressure through the filling passageway and into said vessel and said pressure causes said bladder to compress and become pressurized, and whereby, when the trigger is in the first position, the water received into said vessel is retained therein under said bladder's pressure and, when the trigger is actuated into to the second

position, said retained water is expelled from said vessel by said bladder's pressure and through the squirting passageway and the nozzle to the housing's exterior.

2. (cancelled) The improvement of claim 1, in which said vessel further comprises an insertion opening for installation of said bladder into said vessel and means for sealing said insertion opening to seal said vessel and retain said bladder therein.
3. (cancelled) The improvement of claim 2, in which said bladder is attached to the interior of said vessel only at or about said insertion opening.
4. (cancelled) The improvement of claim 3 in which said squirting passageway is said filling passageway and said one or more openings communicating with the passageways is one opening.
5. (cancelled) The improvement of claim 4 in which said insertion opening is disposed substantially apart from said opening communicating with the passageways and comprises a means by which said bladder is so attached to the interior of said vessel thereat or thereabout.
6. (cancelled) The improvement of claim 5 in which said bladder further comprises an attachment feature, and said means by which said bladder is attached comprises

a fastening member adapted to capture said attachment feature and retain said bladder at or about said insertion opening.

7. (cancelled) The improvement of claim 6 in which said fastening member further comprises said means for sealing said second opening.
8. (cancelled) The improvement of claim 3, in which said vessel further comprises pressure-release means for limiting the maximum pressure of water received therein.
9. (cancelled) The improvement of claim 7, in which said vessel further comprises pressure-release means for limiting the maximum pressure of water received therein.
10. (cancelled) In a squirt gun of the type comprising a housing having a hollow interior portion, a filling passageway between the housing's hollow interior portion and the housing's exterior, and a squirting passageway between the housing's hollow interior portion and a nozzle at the housing's exterior, and having an actuatable trigger adapted in and biased towards a first position in which communication through the squirting passageway from the housing's hollow interior portion to the nozzle is denied, and movable to a second position in which communication between the

housing's hollow interior portion to the nozzle is enabled, the improvement whereby said hollow interior portion comprises a sealed and rigid pressure vessel with one or more openings communicating with said passageways, said vessel comprising an interior tubular surface and having disposed therein an energy-storing piston slidably sealing said interior tubular surface to define water-holding and energy-holding portions of said vessel, said vessel further having disposed therein an energy-storing element having a high energy state and a low energy state and biased towards its low energy state, said element in communication with said piston and biasing said piston towards said water-holding portion, and wherein the gun is adapted to receive water at a positive pressure through the filling passageway and into said vessel and said pressure causes said element towards its high-energy state and said piston towards said energy-holding portion, and whereby, when the trigger is in said first position, the water received into said vessel is retained therein, and when the trigger is actuated into its second position, the retained water is expelled from said vessel to the housing's exterior through the squirting passageway and the nozzle by said energy-

storing element's bias of the piston towards the water-holding portion.

11. (cancelled) The improvement of claim 10, in which said vessel further comprises an insertion opening for installation of said energy-storing element into said vessel and means for retaining said energy-storing element therein.
12. (cancelled) The improvement of claim 11, in which said energy-storing element is retained within said energy-holding portion of said vessel.
13. (cancelled) The improvement of claim 12 in which said squirting passageway is said filling passageway and said one or more openings communicating with the passageways is one opening.
14. (cancelled) The improvement of claim 11, in which said vessel further comprises pressure-release means adapted for limiting the maximum pressure of water received within said water-holding portion.
15. (cancelled) The improvement of claim 13, in which said vessel further comprises pressure-release means adapted for limiting the maximum pressure of water received within said water-holding portion.
16. (cancelled) The improvement of claim 14, in which said vessel further comprises pressure-release means

adapted for limiting the maximum pressure of water received within said water-holding portion.

17. (cancelled) The improvement of claim 15, in which said vessel further comprises pressure-release means adapted for limiting the maximum pressure of water received within said water-holding portion.

18. (cancelled) The improvement of claim 11, in which said energy storage element is taken from the group including a spring, a gas-filled bladder, and resilient mass.

19. (cancelled) The improvement of claim 13, in which said energy storage element is taken from the group including a compression spring, a compressible gas-filled bladder, and resilient compressible mass.

20. (cancelled) The improvement of claim 15, in which said energy storage element is taken from the group including a compression spring, a compressible gas-filled bladder, and resilient compressible mass.

21. (cancelled) The improvement of claim 17, in which said energy storage element is taken from the group including a compression spring, a compressible gas-filled bladder, and resilient compressible mass.

2. Add the following New Claims 22-40;

22. (new) In a squirt gun of the type comprising a housing having a hollow interior portion, a filling passageway between the housing's hollow interior portion and the housing's exterior, and a squirting passageway between the housing's hollow interior portion and a nozzle at the housing's exterior, and having an actuatable trigger having a first position in which communication through the squirting passageway from the housing's hollow interior portion to the nozzle is denied, and a second position in which communication between the housing's hollow interior portion to the nozzle is enabled, the improvement whereby the hollow interior portion comprises a rigid vessel with one or more openings communicating with the passageways, said vessel comprising therein a resiliently compressible element, and whereby the gun is adapted to receive water at a positive pressure through the filling passageway and into said vessel and said pressure causes said element to compress, and whereby, when the trigger is in the first position, the water received into said vessel is retained therein under pressure and, when the trigger is actuated into the second position, said retained water is forced from said vessel by the decompression of said element and

through the squirting passageway and the nozzle to the housing's exterior.

23. (new) The improvement of claim 22, in which said vessel further comprises an insertion opening for installation of said element into said vessel and means for sealing said insertion opening to seal said vessel and retain said element therein.
24. (new) The improvement of claim 23, in which said element is attached to the interior of said vessel only at or about said insertion opening.
25. (new) The improvement of claim 24 in which said squirting passageway is said filling passageway and said one or more openings communicating with the passageways is one opening.
26. (new) The improvement of claim 25 in which said insertion opening is disposed substantially apart from said opening communicating with the passageways and comprises a means by which said element is so attached to the interior of said vessel thereat or thereabout.
27. (new) The improvement of claim 26 in which said element further comprises an attachment feature, and said means by which said element is attached comprises a fastening member adapted to capture said attachment

feature and retain said element at or about said insertion opening.

28. (new) The improvement of claim 27 in which said fastening member further comprises said means for sealing said second opening.
29. (new) The improvement of claim 24, in which said vessel further comprises pressure-release means for limiting the maximum pressure of water received therein.
30. (new) The improvement of claim 28, in which said vessel further comprises pressure-release means for limiting the maximum pressure of water received therein.
31. (new) The improvement of claim 22, in which said resiliently compressible element is taken from the group including a spring, a gas-filled bladder, and a resilient mass.
32. (new) The improvement of claim 22, in which said resiliently compressible element is taken from the group including a compression spring, a compressible gas-filled bladder, and resiliently compressible mass.
33. (new) The improvement of claim 23, in which said resiliently compressible element is taken from the group including a compression spring, a compressible gas-filled bladder, and resiliently compressible mass.

34. (new) The improvement of claim 24, in which said resiliently compressible element is taken from the group including a compression spring, a compressible gas-filled bladder, and resiliently compressible mass.
35. (new) The improvement of claim 25, in which said resiliently compressible element is taken from the group including a compression spring, a compressible gas-filled bladder, and resiliently compressible mass.
36. (new) The improvement of claim 26, in which said resiliently compressible element is taken from the group including a compression spring, a compressible gas-filled bladder, and resiliently compressible mass.
37. (new) The improvement of claim 27, in which said resiliently compressible element is taken from the group including a compression spring, a compressible gas-filled bladder, and resiliently compressible mass.
38. (new) The improvement of claim 28, in which said resiliently compressible element is taken from the group including a compression spring, a compressible gas-filled bladder, and resiliently compressible mass.
39. (new) The improvement of claim 29, in which said resiliently compressible element is taken from the group including a compression spring, a compressible gas-filled bladder, and resiliently compressible mass.

40. (new) The improvement of claim 30, in which said resiliently compressible element is taken from the group including a compression spring, a compressible gas-filled bladder, and resiliently compressible mass.